



Is efficient sufficient?

Exploring progressive efficiency specifications for appliances and buildings:

Welcome to an eceee workshop to develop new policy tools

18 May 2010, 9.30 – 17.00

Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

Arranged by the European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (eceee) with support from the Swedish Energy Agency and European Climate Foundation

Introduction

Traditional measures of product efficiency have helped consumers locate the least consumptive among a range of similar products, but have done little to prevent absolute energy consumption from rising over time. Progressive efficiency specifications represent one important approach to counter the trend.

This workshop will discuss how, in practice, progressive energy efficiency specifications for appliances and buildings can be developed into effective policy tools to help turn down energy demand.

Why progressive efficiency specifications are needed

Energy efficiency has attracted broad support among diverse stakeholders, given its appeal to deliver environmental and financial benefits without creating the sense of sacrifice or inconvenience. However, energy efficiency is specifically and intentionally not about conservation. Instead, efficiency might best be thought of as a measure of relative consumption. Bigger, more powerful and more functional products get to use proportionally more energy or power and still be labelled as energy efficient, as long as they use less energy than other equally big, powerful, and functional products. Thus, efficiency policies have allowed us to *slow the rate of growth* in absolute energy consumption, but *not yet level it out or reduce it* except in rare instances. We must therefore challenge the inherent way specifications are designed.

Perhaps the most salient feature of progressive efficiency specifications is that they approach a sufficiency limit on power use which will cease to increase, no matter how much larger or more functional the energy-using devices become. This does not prevent the largest or most functional products from being sold; it holds them to progressively tighter efficiency requirements if they want to be labelled as energy efficient or receive a utility rebate.

Chatham House Rule

The workshop will be held under Chatham House Rule. This is understood as “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed”. (Chatham House web site)

Welcome to join!

eceee is inviting our members, policy makers, equipment suppliers, NGOs and others to discuss the topics of sufficiency and progressive energy efficiency. We hope that the workshop will inspire others to work towards the goal of reducing absolute energy consumption. Please register at eceee@eceee.org or download registration form from www.eceee.org/calendar/2010/Is_efficient_sufficient/. Also see eceee’s web page dedicated to progressive efficiency: www.eceee.org/sufficiency/

Tentative programme

(Note, the programme is subject to change)

Morning coffee is served from 08.45

Moderator: Hans Nilsson, FourFact (Sweden) and Chair of IEA's DSM Programme

9.30-9.40	Welcome and introduction	Nils Borg, Executive Director, eceee
09.40-11.00 First plenary	Why we must do more than we are doing Absolute limits to CO ₂ emissions	Hans Nilsson, FourFact, Sweden, Chair of IEA's DSM Programme
	Is efficient sufficient? Presentation of eceee's report (Report can be downloaded from www.eceee.org/sufficiency).	Chris Calwell, Ecos Consulting, US, Author of eceee's report "Is efficient sufficient?"
	Resource efficiency and energy performance standards	Carl Dalhammar, The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University
11.00-11.30	COFFEE BREAK	
11.30-12.45 Second plenary	Where to go with appliance efficiency standards: Towards zero-energy and energy-producing appliances	Hans-Paul Siderius, NL Agency, Chair of IEA's 4E agreement
	US ENERGY STAR TV specification, version 5.0 – how did we get there?	Speaker T B C
	Energy+ and TopTen: two examples voluntary programmes with a progressive efficiency element	Sophie Attali SoWatt Consulting and TopTen Europe
12.45-13.45	LUNCH	
13.45-15.15	BREAK OUT SESSION I Plug-in loads Moderator: Holger Krawinkel, eceee board member, Head of Department Housing, Energy and Environment for the Federation of German Consumer Organizations How can we apply progressive efficiency specifications to plug-in loads? Special focus on white goods and consumer electronics	BREAK OUT SESSION II Commercial and residential buildings Moderator: Rod Janssen, eceee board member and manager for eceee's buildings policy programme How can progressive efficiency specifications be applied in the buildings sector?
	15.15-15.45	COFFEE BREAK
15.45-17.00 Final plenary	Report back from the break-out sessions Conclusions and summary	